

FUTURE OF STATE'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY FULL OF PROMISE

North Carolina Rapidly Working Toward the Point Where Cotton Will Be Sold in The Web Rather Than In The Bale.

(BION H. BUTLER)

Gastonia, Nov. 7.—After looking over the work the Southern Power Company is doing in this State the next thing that suggests itself to an inquirer is what the cotton mills are going to do to profit by the enormous available power. I brought this question up to some of the cotton mill men of Gaston county and the cheering confidence they have in the future of the textile industry of North Carolina would be good stuff for the immigration department of the State to put in print and scatter over the four quarters of the globe.

Possibly I had a longer talk with E. C. Hutchison, of Mount Holly, than with any other one man, and what he said is significant of the tone of all of them.

Without attempting to reproduce what he said on the subject of cotton mill expansion I will try to tell what I gathered from him in a general way.

The war in Europe has set people to thinking about using the cotton of the United States at the mills of the United States. Where the cotton is raised it seems that the cotton should be made into the goods in which it is to be used by the final buyer. Manufacturing is an evolution. It follows the simpler occupations, like hunting, fishing, farming, etc., and that it has not gained more of a footing in North Carolina is simply because the people have been giving their attention to providing for the less complicated products, and allowing the skilled tasks to those who have been longer learning how.

When the steam engine was invented England was given a power that soon set up the factory over there. Profiting by cheap power and the machinery that followed power, Manchester built up a big textile industry. Our people in this country were asked for an increasing quantity of cotton, the amount growing year by year, and because making cotton took the time and attention of the people of North Carolina they for a long time gave little thought to using the cotton they raised.

Cotton Mill Becomes Factor.

Finally the cotton mill grew to such proportions in this State that it became a factor in the textile trade. Quite rapidly mills multiplied after the beginning was once really made, and of late the growth of the Carolina cotton mills has been one of the notable events in American industrial history.

I am satisfied we have seen so far only the entering wedge. From now on we are going forward in North Carolina on the road to a textile development that will make this State the home of the greatest textile industry of the world. It may not all work out in the next five years, but it is as certain to come as the textile mills of Manchester were certain to follow the invention of the steam engine.

The reason we do not manufacture in the United States all of the cotton we raise is because we have not yet turned our attention in that direction. Before we can manufacture all our cotton we have some things to do. Mills must be built to handle much more raw material. To do this takes men and money. Men are necessary to build mills and to manage them. In all of the mills now at work young men are learning the business of running cotton mills. A big crop is coming along, and every year as mills multiply the number who are trained for the work is greater. This is taking care of one factor. Within the next few years we will have in the territory of the Southern Power Company a large number of men competent to handle an increased number of mills. They will agitate the question of more mills, and under their agitation will come more mills. When capable men are ready to assume the management of more mills more capital will be willing to go into new establishments, and the new men will be able to take some of the stock in the new mills as they have been doing right along in the mills now in operation.

People to Run the Machines.

With the question of men to man new mills comes another question equally important, and that is the hands to run the machines. Some years ago I was in East Liverpool, Ohio, the home of the great pottery industry of the United States, and there I inquired why North Carolina had not sent to Ohio to be worked up into pottery instead of being made into pottery at home. The answer was that the East Liverpool workmen have learned how to make pottery and the North Carolina folks have not. Nearly any big industry in any section is a process of the education of the people that work in the establishments. When the East Liverpool potteries made their first ware it was the coarse yellow stuff that is not made scarcely at all there now. As the hands become proficient they took up finer grades of ware, and now East Liverpool is dotted with enormous

potteries in all sections of the city, and in every one are capable hands who can make the finest grades of china ware that we find.

When North Carolina commenced to make cotton goods the coarsest quality of textiles was turned out. Week by week the change is going on at the mills, and finer yarns and finer weaves are steadily catalogued among the products of the mills. Just as at High Point the population has learned the art of manufacturing furniture, so in the mill centers of the State the population has learned the art of making cotton products.

This matter of available trained labor is probably the biggest feature in the whole story of cotton mill development of the future. That old story of the cotton mill hand comes up every time mill discussion is commenced, but it is well known to mill men that the mill has had a wonderful forward stimulus on the people of much of the South. In the more isolated farm sections progress in the past was not so marked as it might have been. The cotton mill has opened the back woods to modern ways, and it has brought the rural folks out into contact with modern conveniences. It has not done this as a bit of philanthropy at all, but for the benefit of the mill. In benefitting the mill the mill has benefited the people who have come out to find employment, benefitted the community which they become instrumental in developing, and in a broader way the mill hands have helped the whole State and nation by broadening the industrial horizon of the world.

Good Stock in Country Homes.

The country homes of North Carolina are full of the best kind of stock that is capable of being trained into thoroughly capable hands for every place about a mill. Because these folks have lived away from contact with the busy world does not say that they are in the slightest degree the mental inferiors of anybody who lives for they are not. Their stock is the same good European blood that settled and developed this lively nation, and if anybody tells you it has deteriorated don't you believe that for a minute. It has simply vegetated temporarily. The cotton mill brings this material into action, and it is an enormous reserve force, for it gives to an expanded mill development a big reserve from which to steadily draw new hands for a long time to come.

I don't propose to enter on a discussion of the social conditions of the mill population. That has gone on in the spheres of certain social workers until it is time to give it a rest. But it is my impression from constant contact with a mill population that no factory workers on the continent are better served than the workers in the average North Carolina cotton mill. One reason for this conclusion is because in most of the mill towns the people live and work in small communities where they are in the country, and I believe a man or a child can thrive better in the country than in the town. The cotton mill of North Carolina has brought to the rural communities the advantages of factory employments and of factory neighborhoods.

Rapidly the great school which the many mills constitute, are training men who will be managers, men who will be superintendents, men who will be operatives, men who will be everything about the mills. The quality of the labor from the best paid man down to the lowest in the mills, is good. The great technical training school is running daily all the year round, and is bringing in new students constantly. From the mountain counties can come an army every month, and as they are trained they help to build up a vast intelligent manufacturing force that can handle any question that comes into the textile plane.

Making Finer Goods.

As new students come into the coarser lines of work the older ones keep pushing ahead, growing more skillful from year to year, and as their hands grow more proficient mills are changing from the coarse grades of products to the finest and more complicated. The delicate weaves like scrims, curtains, the complex patterns of the Jacquard looms, the finer underwear and hosiery, are all crowding into places for themselves in the North Carolina factories, pointing out what is close in sight for the future.

It is the old story of the ton of iron worth seventeen dollars as pig iron, thirty dollars as steel billets, five hundred dollars as edged tools, and nobody can hardly guess how many dollars as watch springs.

Ten cent cotton becomes twenty cent cotton when woven into white goods, thirty cents when made into denims, forty cents in madras, a dollar when mercerized, and it keeps on going up in that way. The swift increase in value as cotton is worked into finer products is one of the cer-

tain reasons why finer weaves are to be made in the future. The people of North Carolina have the intelligence and the skill to make as good wares as the people of any section have. Here are the raw material, and it is not good business policy to raise the cotton and market it in its crudest form for the lowest price when it can be worked up into its more complex shapes and marketed at its highest price.

The advent of stable and abundant power in the electrical development makes the power company a missionary in manufacturing. The power companies are powerful influences. They will be continually working to place new factories all over the section through which they can develop power. The Southern Power Company wants to sell power. It can sell its power only to people who can use it. If the power company can interest a group of men in building a large new cotton mill to use a large amount of electrical energy it has created a market for more of its product. Incidentally it has enlarged the production of manufactured cotton. With all of the facilities in North Carolina for expanding the cotton mill trade these secondary influences for its expansion must be regarded as of the utmost importance and the utmost ability. It is a simple matter for the Southern Power Company in its efforts to sell more of its power to approach capital say in New York or London and lay before that capital the facts that on its power lines are located where mills may be built in a territory where cotton is raised in sight of the mill, where labor is abundant and skilled, where transportation is of the best character, where power is supplied without the cost of building a power plant by the mill money, and where all things combine to make mill operation satisfactory and profitable. It is easy to see that the Southern Power Company is an interested salesman of mill opportunities and an able salesman.

Railroads Working For New Mills.

Other interested promoters are the railroads. The Seaboard, the Coast Line, the Southern and the Norfolk Southern are all working energetically to locate new mills in the territory they traverse. It is estimated that every new family in a community means an annual income to the railroads of about fifty dollars. Where a railroad can locate a big new cotton mill it has located a big permanent new source of income.

Besides these influences are the eagerness of the various towns to establish new industries. This local ambition is always at work to increase the number of producing mills, and it is steadily effective.

These influences are not exerted in most of the other cotton manufacturing centers. In the North the railroads are not situated as in the South, for the Southern roads get a long and profitable haul from the cotton products, while many of the Northern cotton centers are in coast towns, or in towns so close to the coast that water haul takes away much of the enthusiasm of the railroads. There is no power company in much of the North to encourage cotton mill building in order that power may be sold, and there is no cotton crop to coax men to engage in working up cotton into a finished product.

Gaston county is one of the leading cotton mill counties of the State. Several other counties have progressed far enough to have several million dollars invested in mills, and several thousand persons trained in cotton mill work. This has all been accomplished, with few exceptions, in the last ten or twenty years.

Point of View Changes.

The agencies that have gone so far are not out of business by any means. They are still alive and more energetic than ever, besides being more powerful because they have grown. Gaston county has infinitely greater ambition now in the cotton mill line than at any previous time because men are being raised in the mill work now, while in the past they were brought to it from other callings. The point of view has changed completely. Where men were talking about mules and plows and corn twenty years ago they are now talking about spinning jennies and four quarter sheetings and 20-1 warps. That kind of environment creates more cotton mill interest, and the thing that more men learn to do they continue to do in expanding fashion.

Yet after all the big expansion of the cotton mills of North Carolina may be expected to come from the natural growth of the industry at the centers where it has become established. From year to year the cotton mills are earning money for their owners and the owners certainly want to put that money into something that will earn more. Nothing is so natural as another mill, especially as employees who are saving a little money like to put some of their money also into the new ventures, thus starting more men on the road to become stockholders and ultimate mill owners. That natural growth is the most powerful factor in spreading the cotton mill industry farther and farther out from the central radiating points, and in expanding the mill influences at every point where a mill has been started.

In looking over the names of the men who are connected with the cotton mills it is interesting to notice how many names appear as connected with the directorates of several mills.

Some of these duplicates are branch mills that have sprung up as the immediate creation of a parent mill investing its surplus earnings. Some are mills that have been built by established cotton mill men inviting other business associates and starting new ventures from the success of the other mills. All conceivable incentives have conspired to the multiplication of mills, and those additional mills encourage the creation of still more.

Northern Capital Coming.

Then another factor has been pertinent. Northern cotton mill men, those perhaps who sell the products of the mills, seeing the success of the North Carolina mills, are putting money into new ventures down this way for the sake of the business that comes from selling the product of the mills as well as for the dividends that come from the mill stocks. Selling North Carolina cotton mill products in the North is a big business and a profitable one. This factor grows in importance as the mills grow, and will be steadily alert to create new business that more products may be sold, and to create new mills that they may turn out more product to make more business.

Enough said. North Carolina has all the factors for making finished cotton of her raw cotton. So because cotton in bales sells for ten cents a pound and cotton in poplins and Persian lawns sells for fifteen to forty times as much money North Carolina will rapidly work toward the point where cotton will be sold in the web rather than in the bale.

AS TO FUTURE STUDY IN GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

Whether Students From Countries Fighting Kaiser's Empire Can Be Students There in Coming Years Being Debated.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

Amsterdam, Oct. 30.—The question whether in future subjects of nations now at war with Germany shall be allowed to study at German Universities has aroused much comment, especially among German medical men and in the professional press. In the Medizinische Klinik Professor Elschning deals with this question in so far as it affects the exclusion of Japanese. He demands that no Japanese shall be allowed to study at German universities. A similar attitude, he continues, could not be observed with regard to students of other nationalities now at war with Germany, as many common interests unite these various countries. Professor Elschning's opinion is that German medical science would not lose anything "if we limit the mutual relations with other now hostile nations and if we after the war restrict these relations to those nations only with whom it will be possible to live in peace."

This article by Professor Elschning has brought forth answers from Professor Orth. He points out that he must deny on principle that a nation can isolate itself from the others with regard to scientific, and especially medical, relations. "I do not underestimate our German medical science," he said, "but could it have reached its present greatness without the mutual relations with the medical science of other nations? Have we always been the givers and never the receivers? Shall we, because England has become the best hated enemy, remove the picture of Lord Lister from the wall of our Langenbeck Hospital? Shall we forego for all future time all relations with the English or any other country's medical science?"

"With regard to Japan, Japanese medical science has been till now the receiver. But Japanese diligence, together with German genius, has presented German medicine and the whole world with one of the most valuable medical acquisitions. If after the war a long lasting peace—also with Japan—comes, the war in science could not be continued. The political enemies of today can be the best friends tomorrow. If we wish to maintain our power in the world, for which this war is waged, also after the war, we cannot isolate ourselves but we must remain in touch with the whole world and if the relations are partly interrupted we must restore them."

"That we shall treat the various nations differently is a matter of course. Our present allies will occupy a privileged position. After the termination of the hostilities a certain feeling will remain against our enemies, especially against England, Russia and Japan, and it will take a long time and continual good behavior on their part before the old good relations can be restored. But after the war the relations of our universities with all now hostile foreigners must be again correct."

Newspaper Has Joint Trouble.

Concord Chronicle.

The Chronicle has been a little out of joint during the election. We have endeavored to get the paper to our readers with the news as fresh as possible, but we hope to get back on the regular schedule by Monday. After that date the paper will be issued regularly on the old dates.

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